

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 5 October 2018 at 10.30 am at  
Harrogate Civic Centre, St Luke's Mount, Harrogate**

**Present:-**

<u>Authority</u>	<u>Member/Chief Executive</u>
City of York Council	Councillor Ian Gillies Ian Floyd (Deputy Chief Executive)(as Substitute for Mary Weastell (Chief Executive))
Craven District Council	Councillor Richard Foster Paul Shevlin (Chief Executive)
Hambleton District Council	Councillor Peter Wilkinson (as Substitute for Councillor Mark Robson) Mick Jewitt (Deputy Chief Executive)(as Substitute for Dr Justin Ives (Chief Executive))
Harrogate Borough Council	Councillor Richard Cooper Wallace Sampson (Chief Executive)
North Yorkshire County Council	County Councillor Carl Les (in the Chair) Richard Flinton (Chief Executive and also LGNYY Honorary Secretary)
North York Moors National Park Authority	Mr Jim Bailey
Richmondshire District Council	Councillor Yvonne Peacock Tony Clark (Chief Executive)
Ryedale District Council	Stacey Burlet (Chief Executive)
Scarborough Borough Council	Councillor Helen Mallory (as Substitute for Councillor Derek Bastiman) Lisa Dixon (Director)(as Substitute for Jim Dillon (Chief Executive))
Selby District Council	Councillor Mark Crane Janet Waggott (Chief Executive)
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	Mr Carl Lis OBE

**By invitation:-**

North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner's representative	Fraser Sampson (Interim Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner)(as Substitute for the Police and Crime Commissioner)
Yorkshire Water	Richard Flint (Chief Executive) Nevil Muncaster (Director of Asset Management) Paul Carter (Political Engagement Manager)

**In Attendance:-**

James Farrar (York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP, Chief Operating Officer), Michael Grayson (North Yorkshire County Council, Programme Manager – Mobile Phone Coverage) and Ruth Gladstone (LGNYY Secretariat).

## **Apologies for Absence:-**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Luke Ives (Ryedale District Council), David Butterworth (Yorkshire Dales National Park Chief Executive), Andy Wilson (North York Moors National Park Chief Executive) and Caroline Lacey (East Riding of Yorkshire Chief Executive).

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**Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book**

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### **47. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **48. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 July 2018**

There were no matters arising.

#### **Resolved -**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2018, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### **49. Yorkshire Water's Work in the Region**

Considered -

The presentation by Richard Flint (Chief Executive, Yorkshire Water) which provided information concerning Yorkshire Water's long term strategy which was published in April 2018 and set out the organisation's vision for the subsequent 25 years, and Yorkshire Water's business plan published in September 2018 relating to the 5 years to 2020. A copy of the presentation slides is in the Minute Book.

During discussion, Council Leaders raised the following concerns:-

- Yorkshire Water's contractor closed roads without giving notice or seeking permission. This caused significant problems for local communities and for North Yorkshire County Council which managed the highways network. In addition, County Council highways staff reported that Yorkshire Water's contractor, Morrison Utility Services, were difficult to deal with regarding network engagement. Richard Flint (Yorkshire Water) expressed grave concern with this situation. He highlighted the narrower roads in rural parts of North Yorkshire and the restrictions which narrower roads caused when works were required to pipework. Richard Flint acknowledged that Yorkshire Water needed to work harder at local liaison and local planning in order not to disrupt local communities. He highlighted that a balance needed to be struck when there was a risk of people not having water. However, that was no excuse for not planning properly. He undertook to review the situation with the Yorkshire Water team which managed the water network.
- Delay and poor communication had been experienced by Councils in getting newly built homes onto the water network. This was, in particular, a barrier to Councils' strategic priority of getting new affordable homes into communities. Richard Flint (Yorkshire Water) responded that he was aware of the issue of delay. He highlighted the installation of a new IT system within Yorkshire Water which would help improve co-ordination between the separate functional teams who needed to be involved.

- Yorkshire Water's assets and infrastructure were benefitting from protection provided as part of coastal defence works organised by Scarborough Borough Council. However, Yorkshire Water did not provide a financial contribution towards the costs of such works. It was recognised that this issue was part of a broader national discussion and that Yorkshire Water was constrained by its duties and responsibilities. Richard Flint (Yorkshire Water) responded that he was sympathetic to the situation and, where there was a risk to Yorkshire Water assets, eg from flooding, Yorkshire Water would wish to work with Councils locally on a joint plan which was to the greater good of the area.
- Any small reduction in water pressure in areas to the west of the city of York had a significant impact and resulted in water pressure becoming unacceptably low. Water pressure in those areas was set at a low level in any case. Yorkshire Water representatives responded that, in operating their network, they operated to minimum water pressures and also took account of customers' needs identified through information from customer complaints. It was highlighted that it was better to operate to a low pressure and strain on the network.
- Whilst Councils understood that Yorkshire Water had a large geographic area to cover, and would have objective criteria for investing and renewing, in a place like North Yorkshire, there would be really important issues which affected a single business or a small number of houses. Yorkshire Water was asked to ensure that such issues featured sufficiently high on Yorkshire Water's agenda because, whilst in terms of overall numbers, or the economic hit across Yorkshire, such issues might not be large, to North Yorkshire communities there were big impacts. Richard Flint (Yorkshire Water) confirmed that Yorkshire Water used criteria to deal with specific issues and, in addition, it had statutory duties which were heavily enforced. However, Yorkshire Water wanted to understand the issues for local communities and also to get all available benefits from the investments which Yorkshire Water made.

Yorkshire Water representatives advised that they would be pleased to attend a meeting with James Farrar (Chief Operating Officer, York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP) to provide information to assist the LEP's work.

**Resolved -**

That the presentation be noted.

**50. York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP Update**

Considered -

The report of the Chief Operating Officer of the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding (YNYER) LEP which provided an update on the current situation regarding the national review of LEPs.

A Joint Board of the YNYER LEP and the Leeds City Region LEP was being established to focus on looking at each LEP's Local Industrial Strategy and identify where economies of scale could be achieved and consequently where collaboration would be sensible. It was not known when the Government would respond to the submissions made by the various LEPs to the national review.

**Resolved -**

That the report be noted.

**51. York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Mobile Infrastructure - Business Rate Relief**

Considered -

The report of the Chair of the YNYERH Directors of Development Group which sought agreement, in principle, to a proposal whereby Councils would provide a National Non Domestic Rate holiday for new rural mobile infrastructure where no mobile service was currently available. This was an attempt to encourage the expansion of mobile coverage in rural areas.

It was noted that each District Council and the City of York Council would need to make its own decision regarding the proposal set out in the report.

The Leaders of various District Councils expressed support for the proposal, although requested further detail to identify the areas described as “rural”. The Leader of the City of York Council commented that, whilst he would support other Councils if they wished to approve the proposal, the City of York Council was likely to have other priorities which it would prefer to fund.

**Resolved -**

- (a) That the proposal to grant a seven year holiday in National Non Domestic Rates for all new rural mobile infrastructure, to a maximum of £6,000 per mast per annum across York and North Yorkshire, be agreed in principle, subject to:-
  - (i) the new infrastructure shall serve a rural area where there is currently no mobile phone service; and
  - (ii) the infrastructure is occupied for a minimum of seven years.
- (b) That the Chair of the YNYERH Directors of Development Group forward to each of the seven District Councils in North Yorkshire and the City of York Council a map of that Council’s area which shows where there is currently zero mobile phone coverage so that that further detail can be taken into account by that Council when it considers the proposal in respect of its area.

**52. Devolution Update**

There was a brief general discussion about the current situation regarding devolution.

**53. Issues about the Police, Fire and Crime Panel**

Considered -

The oral report of County Councillor Carl Les (Chair of the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel) highlighting the impact on the existing Police and Crime Panel of the transfer of governance of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to the Police and Crime Commissioner. The transfer was highly likely to take place from November 2018.

County Councillor Carl Les asked Leaders, when nominating to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel, to consider selecting a few individuals who had experience of fire and rescue work. He also advised that the workload was increasing and therefore Councillors needed to be made aware of the commitment required of Panel Members in order to avoid meetings becoming inquorate. The County Council’s Monitoring Officer had been asked to examine the possibility of changing the Panel’s quorum and/or allowing substitution arrangements.

County Councillor Carl Les also advised that there was an issue, if the Panel was asked to perform more work, about the amount of resources which were provided to North Yorkshire County Council for servicing the Panel. The Home Office had agreed to provide an increase in such resources for one year only. County Councillor Carl Les suggested that a report should be submitted to a future meeting of LGNY Y concerning the amount of the budget of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel and the allocation of costs between constituent Councils. Councillor Peter Wilkinson (Deputy Leader of Hambleton District Council and a Vice-Chair of the Police and Crime Panel) commented that the County Council was providing very good officer support to the Panel and he was in no doubt that other Councils were being subsidised by the County Council with regard to the Panel. He expressed support for the various suggestions put forward by County Councillor Carl Les.

**Resolved -**

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That a report be submitted to a future meeting of LGNY Y concerning the budget of the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel, including the allocation of costs between constituent Councils.

**54. General Updates**

Considered -

The report of LGNY Y's Honorary Secretary which advised of the recent discussions of the Sub-Regional Housing Board.

Councillor Mark Crane urged other Leaders to ensure they were aware of, and happy with, the work which the Directors of Development Group was doing in approving, and commencing dialogue with Homes England and local MPs concerning, a housing deal with Homes England. That housing deal had the key aim of clarifying key asks and deliverables for the Housing Partnership and would form the basis of future funding opportunities with Homes England. Councillor Mark Crane highlighted that the draft paper included figures for future affordable housing which seemed to be at variance with Local Plans. Following discussion, it was:-

**Resolved -**

That Council Leaders speak to their respective officer representatives on the Sub-Regional Housing Board to:-

- (a) ask the officers to review the figures relating to their Council area as set out in the housing deal draft report; and
- (b) provide clarification that Councils' reviews of the figures must be completed before the housing deal is discussed with Homes England or local MPs.

**55. Arrangements for Future Meetings**

**Resolved -**

That the following LGNY Y meeting arrangements, as previously advised, be noted:-

- Friday 23 November 2018 at 1pm at Ripon Community House
- Friday 8 March 2019 at 10.30am at Hambleton District Council offices, Northallerton
- Friday 5 July 2019 at 1 pm, venue to be advised

**56. Business for next meeting**

**Resolved -**

That items of business for the next meeting be notified to the Honorary Secretary.

The Chair thanked Harrogate Borough Council for hosting the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 12.10pm.

RAG/JR